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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 679

By Springer

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Hickman County Chief Deputy James "Hootie" Bentley for his bravery in suffering wounds in the line of duty.

WHEREAS, our country was conceived by individuals willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure this nation's freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to have so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service as law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, James "Hootie" Bentley has served with courage and gallantry as Chief Deputy in Hickman County, and deserves proper recognition for heroism in law enforcement as a protector of society; and

WHEREAS, Chief Deputy Bentley and Detective Larry L. Holman, Jr. were shot by an unseen assailant on November 14, 1999 at a home in the Blue Water community. Bentley and Holman spent 90 minutes on the ground before help arrived in the form of Officer John Estes, Deputies Dennis Goltz and Carl Hutchinson and Constable Wayne Qualls; and

WHEREAS, the four men slipped through the woods, located Chief Deputy Bentley, and retreated down the hill to a patrol car manned by Officers Jerry Simmons and Tim Buchanan. Officers Simmons and Buchanan drove Chief Deputy Bentley to an ambulance; and

WHEREAS, Deputies Goltz, Hutchinson and Kenny Lynn then accompanied Simmons and Buchanan to rescue Detective Holman; and

WHEREAS, the successful retrieval of Chief Deputy Bentley and Detective Holman is characteristic of the professionalism and cooperation of the brave law enforcement personnel of both jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, James "Hootie" Bentley performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication and professionalism; his service and willingness to sacrifice his personal safety can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Chief Deputy James "Hootie" Bentley of Hickman County for his willingness to serve the cause of law enforcement even at the risk of life and limb and offer our thanks for his bravery and personal sacrifice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish for him a continuing rapid recovery from any lingering effects of his wounds and offer our hope for every future success in his career.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.